DARK HORSE COMICS

#5

THE GOON™

by
Eric Powell

NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

THE GOON IN NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

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THE GOON™: NOTHIN' BUT MISERY

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This volume collects issues #1–#4 of *The Goon* and *The Goon Color Special*, originally published by Albatross Exploding Funny Books, as well as the short story "Die, Fish, Die!" originally published in the final issue of *Dark Horse Presents*. Yes, after setting creative milestones with the likes of Chadwick and Miller, *DHP*, possibly the greatest anthology comic of all time, ran a Goon story by Eric Powell, and was subsequently canceled.

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KRONAN, WHAT IS BEST IN LIFE?!
TO CRUSH YOUR ENEMIES, SEE THEM DRIVEN BEFORE YOU, AND HEAR THE LAMENTATION OF THE WOMEN.
WRONG!
YOU! WHAT IS BEST IN LIFE?!
PIE.
YEAH!

YES, THAT MAN LOVED HIS PIE. AND HIS OFFSPRING BECAME A LONG LINE OF PIE LOVERS. AND THOUGH THE GOON WAS NOT RELATED TO THAT MAN, HE TOO LOVED PIE.
ALL I'M SAYIN' IS I DON'T SEE HOW A GUY COULD GET HIS HEAD IN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE, LET ALONE PLAY A HARMONICA.
NORTON PUB
WELL, LOOK HERE, SMITTY! FRANKY'S ALL DOLLED UP!
HEY, FRANKY, WHAT'S WITH THE MONKEY SUIT?!
YOU FELLAS JUST AIN'T USED TO CLASS, SEE. I'M ONE OF THEM SOPHISTICATED MAN-ABOUT-TOWN TYPES.
RIGHT! SOPHISTICATED MAN ABOUT TOWN THAT GOT STUCK WITH A LOAD OF MANGY PIGS WHEN NOBODY WOULD BUY INTO HIS PLANS FOR PORK-FLAVORED PRESERVES! HA-HA!
SMASH!
AHH!
WHY YOU GOTTA GO BREAKIN' BOTTLES ON MURRY'S HEAD FOR?
STUPID PIGS.

SO, WHAT IS UP WITH THE GLAD RAGS, FRANKY?
I'M TAKIN' MY DAME STELLA OUT TO THAT THERE MAGIC SHOW.
YOU KNOW, AT THE MOONLIGHT FIREFLY.
MOONLIGHT FIREFLY
?
THE BIZARRI
DRAKSTON EN
DRAKSTON...ENTITY... THE BIZARRIST. YEAH, I HEARD ABOUT THAT SHOW. SUPPOSED TO BE REAL GOOD.
FRANKY, ANGEL!
HEY, BABY! READY TO HIT THE TOWN!
LET'S GET A WIGGLE ON. SEE YOU SUCKERS LATER.
WASTE OF TIME IF YOU ASK ME. AFTER SEEIN' CHARLIE NOODLES CRAM A THREE-HUNDRED-POUND STIFF INTO A FIVE-GALLON BUCKET, PULLING A RABBIT OUT OF A HAT AIN'T THAT IMPRESSIVE.

CONTINUED...

CAN THE GREATEST HERO OF THE GOLDEN AGE WITHSTAND TESTICULAR CANCER?!

ON STANDS NOW!

LEVITATION... CHILD'S PLAY!
PRESTIDIGITATION... DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!
SPOON BENDING! HA! I'M NOW LAUGHING!
PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR THE UNCANNY CONJURING OF--
DRAKSTON ENTITY!

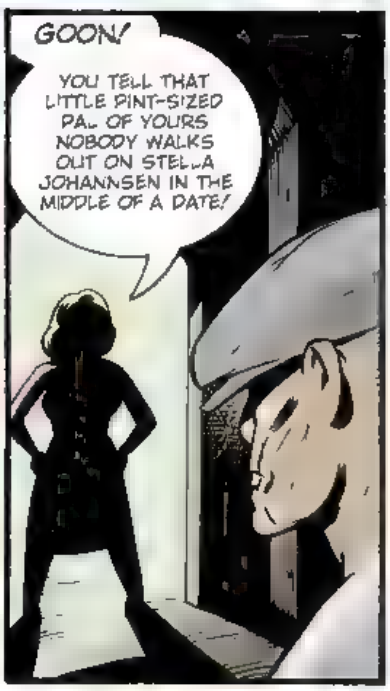
WHAT A SHOW! WHAT DID I TELL YA, BABY!
UHM, YEAH. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. I'M GOING TO POWDER MY NOSE.
FOR MY NEXT MIND-BENDING FEAT, I'LL NEED A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE.
LADIES, IF YOU PLEASE.
WELL, IF YOU GALS INSIST.
PLEASE STEP INTO THE CASKET.

SLAM!
AND NOW...
GHEEN GREETH OTH!
POOF!
THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
NOW, IF EVERYONE WOULD PLEASE LOOK INTO THE EYE.
YOU SAW NOTHING. YOU KNOW NOTHING.

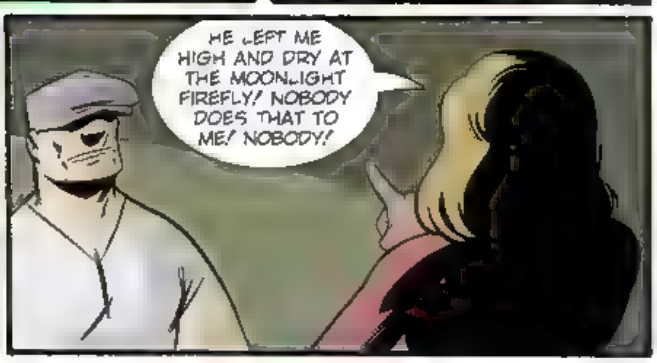
CAN YOUR SENSES WITHSTAND THE EXTRACTION OF A LONG-EARED WOODLAND CREATURE FROM THIS HEAD APPAREL?!
FRANKY, I'M BA--
FRANKY?
EXCUSE ME. HAVE YOU SEEN THE GENTLEMAN I WAS SITTING WITH?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, LADY.
PLACE YER BETS, GENTLEMEN!
FIFTY ON THE GOON!
HUNDRED ON GOON!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!
KNOCK THE DIRTY BUM'S STINKIN' BLOCK OFF, GOON!
FIRST ONE OUTSIDE THE CIRCLE LOSES!
NOW, FIGHT!

SHMAK!

YOU SHOWED HIM!
THAT'S NOTHIN'. MY AUNT KIZZIE COULD TAKE THE HEAD OFF A COW IN ONE PUNCH.
SON OF A [illegible]! THAT'S THE LAST TIME I BET ON THAT COW!


GOON!
YOU TELL THAT LITTLE PINT-SIZED PAL OF YOURS NOBODY WALKS OUT ON STELLA JOHANNSEN IN THE MIDDLE OF A DATE!

HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?


HE LEFT ME HIGH AND DRY AT THE MOONLIGHT FIREFLY! NOBODY DOES THAT TO ME! NOBODY!

ALWAYS WITH THE SWEET TALK... LITTLE WEASEL! STELLA JOHANSEN WILL NOT BE TOYED WITH, YA HEAR!!
HMPH! DAMES.
COLLECT MY MONEY FOR ME, SKINNY. GOTTA CHECK SOMETHIN' OUT.
ISSING
MISSI
MOONLIGH
FIREFLY
CLOSED
CLOSED
-GROAN-
WALLY?
MANAG
HEY, WALLY? YOU IN THERE? I'M LOOKING FOR FRANKY. HE--
ANAGE
HOLY SHIT!

GOOON.

WALLY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YA?!

THAT... THAT MAGIC AN. CAME TWO WEEKS AGO. TOLD HIM... TOLD HIM DIDN'T WANT MAGIC ACT. DID THIS...TO ME. TOOK OVER. DOWN-STAIRS.

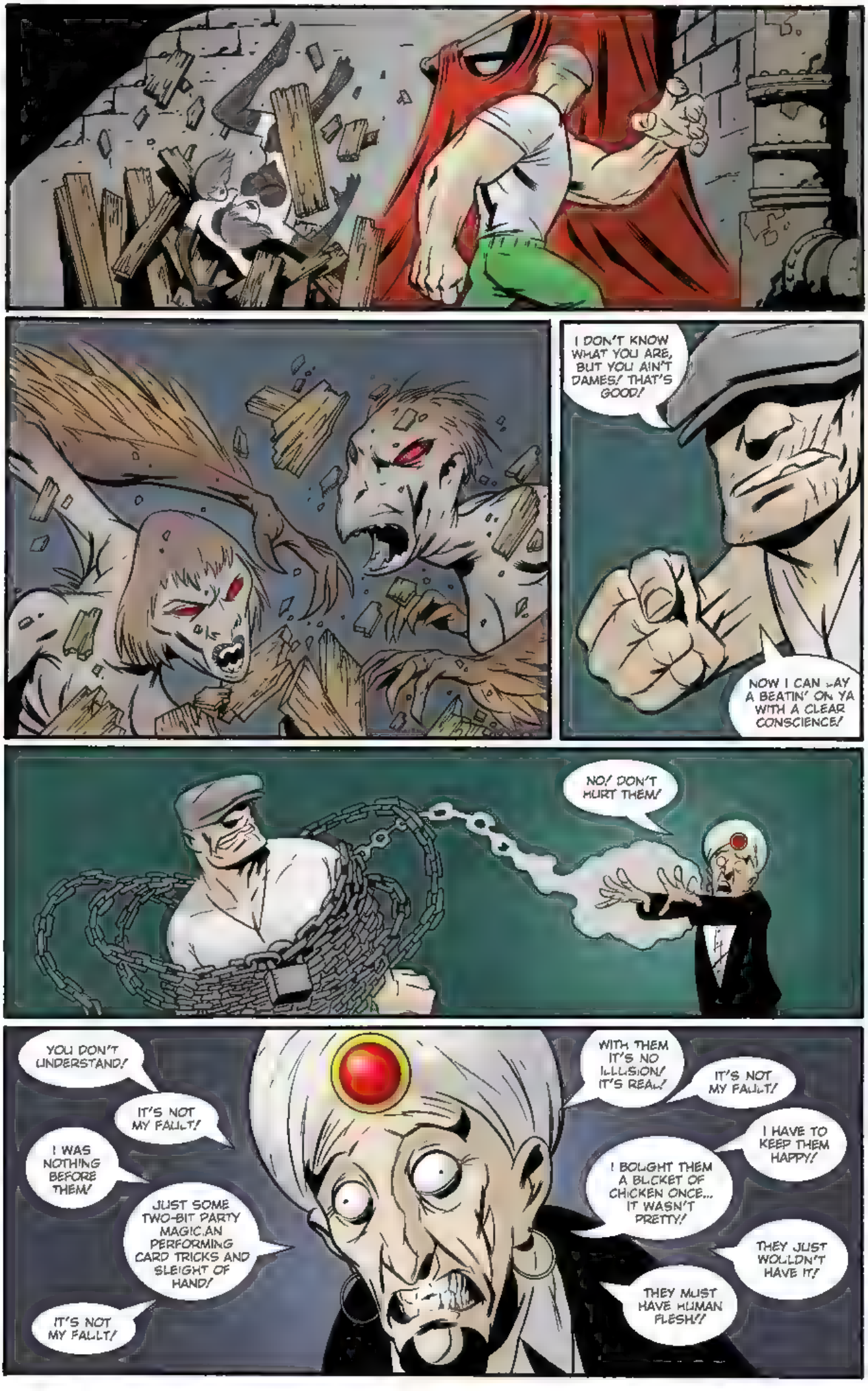
EVIL. TWO. ACK!
WALLY?

CONTINUED...

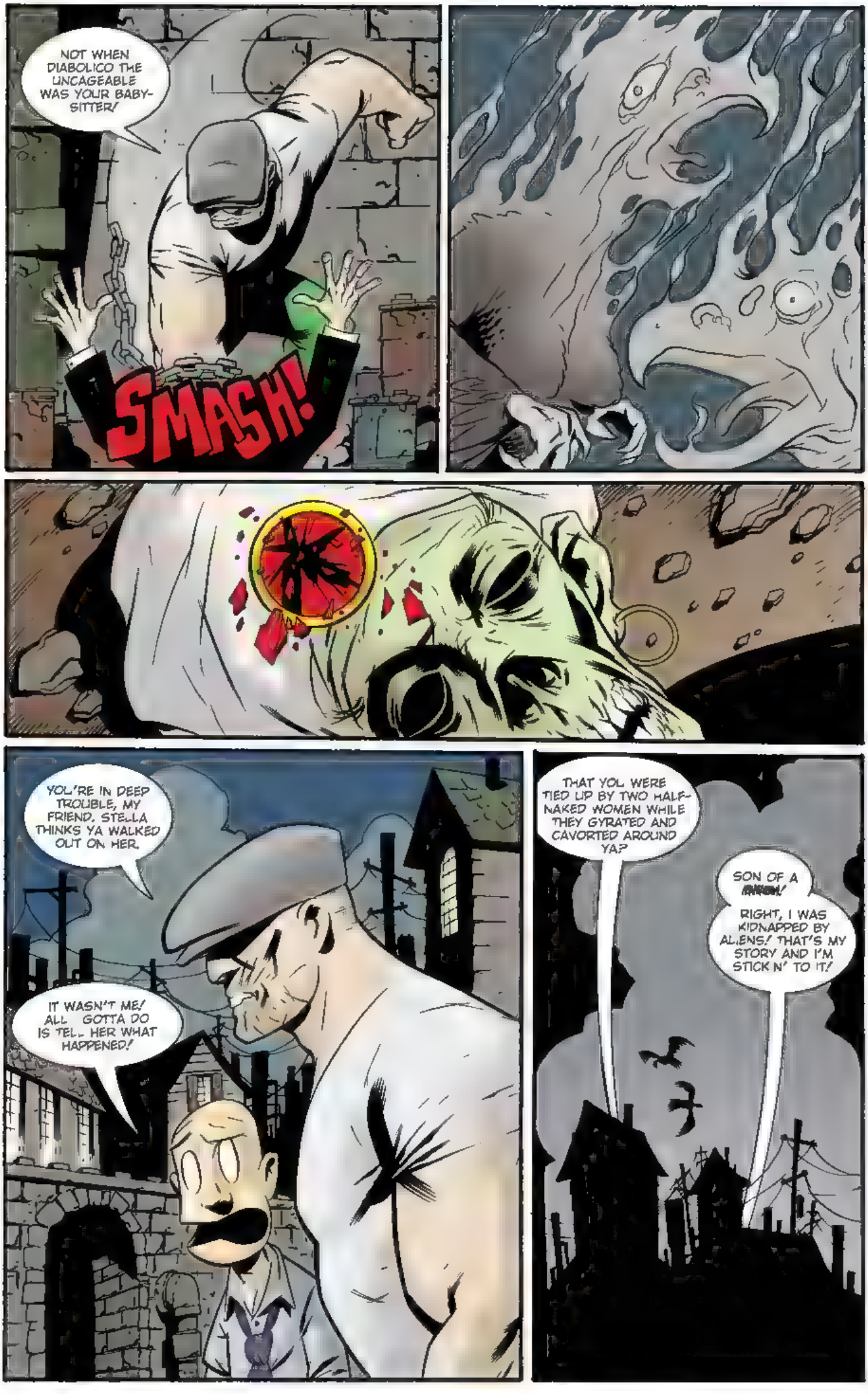
Tonight at 8:00 on the Fantasy Channel
STEPPING OVER
with Edward Johns
OKAY, EVERYBODY, YOU'LL HAVE TO CONCENTRATE REALLY HARD BECAUSE MY VISIONS ARE VERY VAGUE.
OKAY... OVER HERE. I'M SENSING THAT SOMEONE OVER HERE HAS A LOVED ONE WHO HAS PASSED OVER... WITH A "J" IN THEIR NAME!
A "J"... ANYBODY GOT A "J"?
NO! WAIT, IT WAS A "P"!
NOPE.
NOPE.
LIH, NO.
NO.
THINK HARD NOW, PEOPLE... IS IT A "M"?!
MY COUSIN ONCE HAD A NEIGHBOR WHO HAD A PONY NAMED WALTER.
THAT'S IT! SIR, THAT PONY WANTS ME TO TELL YOU THAT HE HAS FOUND PEACE ON THE OTHER SIDE, AND HE IS STILL WATCHING OVER YOU! THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
BUT THAT PONY'S STILL ALIVE.
DON'T WORRY, HE'LL LOOK LIKE A GENIUS AFTER THE EDITING.
TV EXECUTIVE THING ONE.
TV EXECUTIVE THING TWO.
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE WORLD TRADE CENTER EPISODE. NOTHING SAYS MONEY LIKE NATIONAL TRAGEDY.

REALLY, LADIES, MUST YOU PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD?
OKAY, FREAK SHOW, WHERE'S MY PAL?!
GOON!
FRANKY! WHATTA THEY DONE TO YA?!
THEY KEEP STRETCHIN' AND BENDIN' OVER AND DROPPIN' STUFF AND PICKIN' IT UP AND JUMPIN' UP AND DOWN AND ACTIN' LIKE THEY'RE GONNA TOUCH ME BUT THEY DON'T!
I CAN'T TAKE IT NO MORE! GET ME OUTTA HERE!

YOU GONNA UNTIE HIM, OR DO I GOTTA CUT HIM OUT WITH THE JAGGED PIECES OF YER BUSTED SKULL?
DON'T HIT ME! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! IT'S THEM!
HEY, I DON'T HIT NO DAMES.
GET HIM, LADIES!
SWAK!
OW!!
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A GUY FOR TRYING TO BE DECENT, WILL YA?! I'LL LEARN YOU!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, BUT YOU AIN'T DAMES! THAT'S GOOD!
NOW I CAN LAY A BEATIN' ON YA WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE!
NO! DON'T HURT THEM!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I WAS NOTHING BEFORE THEM!
JUST SOME TWO-BIT PARTY MAGIC AN PERFORMING CARD TRICKS AND SLEIGHT OF HAND!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
WITH THEM IT'S NO ILLUSION! IT'S REAL!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I HAVE TO KEEP THEM HAPPY!
I BOUGHT THEM A BUCKET OF CHICKEN ONCE... IT WASN'T PRETTY!
THEY JUST WOULDN'T HAVE IT!
THEY MUST HAVE HUMAN FLESH!!

ARE YOU SAYIN' THEM BIRD LADIES GIVE YOU MAGIC POWERS IF YOU FEED THEM PEOPLE?!
NO!
THEY ARE THE CURSE!
IT WAS YEARS AGO IN THE LOST TEMPLE OF EGROEG THAT I FOUND THE STONE!
IT GRANTS TREMENDOUS POWER... BUT THE HARPIES ARE ITS KEEPERS!
THEY ARE BOUND TO THE STONE! YOU MUST APPEASE THEM!
BUT I'M NO MURDERER! NO MURDERER, YOU HEAR! NO MATTER WHAT THE VOICES SAY!
I NEVER KILLED ANYONE. IT WAS THEM. IT WAS THEM, NOT ME.
SO, THAT LITTLE ROCK ON YER FOREHEAD IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!
WHA--HOW DID YOU?!
I GREW UP IN A CARNIVAL, SLAPPY!
PICKIN' A LOCK AIN'T NO BIG THING!


NOT WHEN DIABOLICO THE UNCAGEABLE WAS YOUR BABY-SITTER!
SMASH!
YOU'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE, MY FRIEND. STELLA THINKS YA WALKED OUT ON HER.
IT WASN'T ME! ALL GOTTA DO IS TELL HER WHAT HAPPENED!
THAT YOU WERE TIED UP BY TWO HALF-NAKED WOMEN WHILE THEY GYRATED AND CAVORTED AROUND YA?
SON OF A [illegible]!
RIGHT, I WAS KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS! THAT'S MY STORY AND I'M STICK N' TO IT!

PROBLEMS WITH YOUR LOVE LIFE?
FINANCIAL INSTABILITY?
I.Q. BELOW FIVE?

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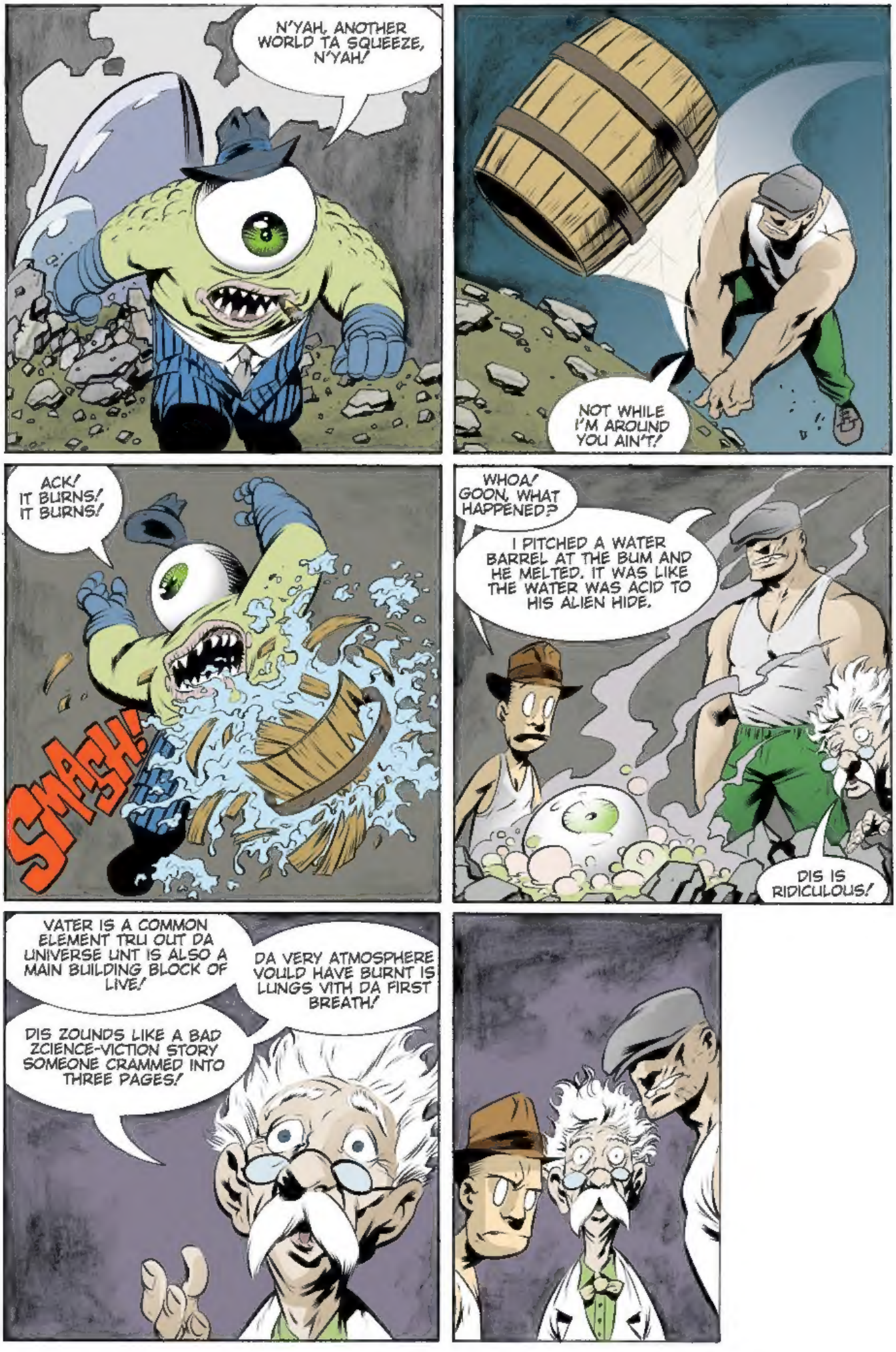
THE GOON in... Attack of the ONE-EYED SCUMBAG from OUTER SPACE
By Eric Powell
N'YAH, SEE, I'M RUNNIN' THIS BURG NOW, N'YAH, N'YAH!
EARLIER THAT DAY.
YER MOTHER WAS EATEN BY A WHITE SHARK?!
ARK!
Psychic
seal

YOU SAY A SPACESHIP IS GONNA CRASH HERE?!
ARK!
AND YOU SAY IN THAT SPACESHIP IS A FREAKISH ONE-EYED ALIEN?!
ARK! ARK!
AND YOU ALSO SAY THAT ALIEN IS AN INTERGALACTIC CRIME BOSS BENT ON ENSLAVIN' OUR WORLD?!
ARK! ARK! ARK!
OH MY GOD! HERE IT COMES!
ARK! ARK!
HEY! WATCH YER MOUTH, YA STUPID SEAL!
ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK!
THAT'S ALL I'M GONNA TAKE OUTTA YOU!
ENSLAVE MY WORLD, WILL YA!


N'YAH, ANOTHER WORLD TA SQUEEZE, N'YAH!
NOT WHILE I'M AROUND YOU AIN'T!
ACK! IT BURNS! IT BURNS!
SMASH!
WHOA! GOON, WHAT HAPPENED?
I PITCHED A WATER BARREL AT THE BUM AND HE MELTED. IT WAS LIKE THE WATER WAS ACID TO HIS ALIEN HIDE.
DIS IS RIDICULOUS!
VATER IS A COMMON ELEMENT TRU OUT DA UNIVERSE UNT IS ALSO A MAIN BUILDING BLOCK OF LIVE!
DA VERY ATMOSPHERE VOULD HAVE BURNT IS LUNGS VITH DA FIRST BREATH!
DIS ZOUNDS LIKE A BAD ZCIENCE-VICTION STORY SOMEONE CRAMMED INTO THREE PAGES!

EMPIRE